



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue 71 August 2010

EDDC withdraws case against go-kart track

EAST Devon District Council (EDDC) has withdrawn its 30 month legal case against Mansell Raceway Ltd less than a week before

the start of a ten day appeal hearing at Exeter Crown Court.

The news has been wel-

comed by former Formula One world champion Nigel Mansell and his sons Leo and Greg

who run and operate Mansell Raceway Ltd at Dunkeswell.

The appeal at Exeter Crown Court was due to begin last month (July 12th).

The case was lodged by EDDC to challenge a ruling by district judge Paul Farmer who quashed a noise abatement order served by the district council's environmental health team following complaints from neighbours.

The district judge ruled there was no noise nuisance following a six day hearing at Honiton Magistrates Court in November 2008.

Speaking from his home in Jersey, where he is recovering from a 200mph crash in Le Mans last month, Nigel Mansell said: "I am relieved that EDDC has finally seen sense and that this very expensive and wholly unnecessary legal battle has now ended."

In a planning settle-

ment with the district council, which was finalised last week,

Mansell Raceway Ltd has agreed to closely

TURN to page 3



Woodland fair success

◆ MORE than 1,000 people turned out to the first Woodland Fair to be held in the Blackdown Hills.

The day saw lots of woody events take place including demonstrations from Pete Whiteman with his homemade Longbows.

For full story and more photos see page 8

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Flower festival

LOVE, Unity and Peace will be the theme for a flower festival to raise money for charity.

The weekend flower festival and fayre will take place at The Throgmorton Hall in Dunksell.

The event will raise money for Help for Heroes.

The Throgmorton Hall Flower Festival and Fayre will take place on Friday, August 20th to Sunday, August 22nd from 10am to 7pm.

£4,248 for Christian Aid

DUNKESWELL residents have raised more than £1,500 for Christian Aid.

The annual appeal, held each year during Christian Aid Week, raises thousands of pounds for the charity. Dunksell residents raised a total of £1,521 this year.

The Christian Aid Appeal in the Corfe and Pitminster area, near Taunton, raised £2,727. The money was raised through plant sales, lent boxes and house-to-house collections during Christian Aid Week.

Church spring clean

CHURCHGOERS in Dunksell are preparing for the village church's annual spring clean.

Volunteers are required to help clean St Nicholas Church during Friday, August 6th and Saturday, August 7th. Men are required to help on the Friday evening and Saturday morning and ladies are required Saturday afternoon.

Useful contacts

Blackdown Hills Business Association

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Twinners' French adventure



◆ MEMBERS of the Upper Culm Twinning Association preparing to leave La Roche Blanche, one of the villages they are twinned with

MORE than 50 twinners from the Upper Culm Valley enjoyed a recent visit to their French counterparts for a weekend of Gallic hospitality.

Here, Upper Culm Twinning Association Chairman, Bill Smith writes about their adventures visiting families in the Loire Valley.

"We left Hemyock on Thursday evening for the overnight ferry from Plymouth to Roscoff arriving in France at around 8am. After a short drive we reached Morlais where we stopped for breakfast. A two hour stop allowed people to indulge in croissants and coffee and to explore the town before setting off on our journey south

towards our destination in the Loire Valley.

"We reached the city of Rennes at lunch time. Another stopover allowed us time to seek out a suitable hostelry for lunch or just to wander the streets of the picturesque city centre.

"Our hosts had arranged a traditional welcome reception at the community hall in the village of La Roche Blanche. Thanks to our driver John, of Redwoods Coaches, we arrived on time and were served with a spectacular brioche accompanied by local wine. After short welcoming speeches everyone met up with their host families and then dis-

By Bill Smith

persed to spend the evening with them.

"The following morning we all met up for a trip to the coastal region to the west of Nantes. Unfortunately the weather was dismal, wet and cold.

"Our first scheduled visit was to be a boat trip on the salt marshes. The increasingly heavy rain meant that the boat trip had to be cancelled and our hosts rapidly rearranged our itinerary. A local guide boarded our coach and gave us a short talk and tour of the area before we set off for the marine aquarium at Croisic, a seaside resort

near La Baule. After the visit to the aquarium we were able to spend some time exploring the resort.

"On Saturday evening and on Sunday during the day we enjoyed the hospitality of our host families. A wide variety of activities had been laid on for us. For example, some of us were taken to Nantes, others went to local markets and sporting events.

"In the evening, we all met up again at the community hall at La Roche Blanche for a celebration dinner with traditional music and dancing.

"Our return journey on Monday was via Cherbourg and Portsmouth. On the way to

Cherbourg we stopped for lunch at the lovely town of Avaranche before heading for the Hypermarket for the essential retail experience.

"Despite the adverse exchange rate, there were several heavily laden trolleys of food and wine loaded into the coach. Later, some of us discovered that the best bargain to be had was a case of red wine purchased on the ferry. One of our group had a corkscrew handy and most of the case failed to make it back to Hemyock!

"A good time was had by all and we look forward to welcoming the French on their visit to us next spring."

New playhouse for Dalwood pupils

A NEW building at Dalwood Primary School was officially declared open during a summer fair.

Owl Cottage, the school's new playhouse, was opened by The Reverend Ann Mills, who gave a blessing.

The playhouse was named by Matthew Batten after all pupils submitted a name in a school competition.

The school summer fair also saw a variety of stalls and games including a bouncy castle.



◆ GILL Davies and Steve Perry man the barbecue



◆ THE Reverend Ann Mills blesses the school's new playhouse, Owl Cottage while pupils can't wait to get inside and play



◆ SCOTT Henderson has his faces painted while sister Katie waits her turn



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For Advertising please call
LOUISE NIDD
01297 32601
email: louise@tindlenews.co.uk

Editorial LISA BRIGHT
01297 446154
email: lisa@pemedial.co.uk

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by Philip Evans Media Ltd

Great Ofsted reports for Blackdown Hills' schools

EDUCATION across the Blackdown Hills is improving according to the latest Ofsted reports for many of the village primary schools.

A number of schools have been inspected by the independent body Ofsted during the past few months, with standards in education improving in many cases.

Culmstock Primary School near Uffculme has gone from a satisfactory school to a good school with inspectors commenting on the strength of teaching staff, saying strong leadership and a more settled teaching force has resulted in considerable improvements since the last inspection.

Payhembury Primary School, near Honiton, was also considered to be a good school with inspectors saying it had systematically improved since its last inspection in 2007, where they were classed as satisfactory.

The report said: "The outstanding vision and ambition of the headteacher is infectious and has brought staff and governors on board in moves, which have driven up pupils' attainment."

Membury Primary School, near Axminster, has been judged as satisfactory with inspectors praising both pupils and staff.

"The pupils are enthusiastic learners, they attend well and their attitudes and behaviour are good," said the report.

Inspectors said teachers and staff successfully provided a pleasant environment where pupils can enjoy their learning.

They also felt the staff showed a clear commitment

By Lisa Bright

to improving the school further, particularly recognising the need to improve progress made by pupils.

Improvements outlined by the report included raising standards in writing, making better use of assessment information to provide challenging work for more able-pupils and extending the provision for community cohesion.

Headteacher Ruth Elenor, said: "Membury Primary School is going from strength to strength, and it is very encouraging to see the changes and progress reflected in the inspector's positive comments."

Inspectors felt there had been a rapid improvement in standards of education at Broadhembury Primary School, following a period of instability, which had been identified by the local authority as a cause for concern.

Their report outlined there had been a huge improvement in some aspects of the school's work.

The report said: "School data and pupils' work, including that for children in reception, show that pupils' progress has accelerated over the last two years."

Across the border in Somerset, Buckland St Mary Primary School, near Chard has retained its good status. Inspectors felt pupils were well mannered, polite and keen to learn and their behaviour exemplary with the ability to think for themselves, providing excellent preparation for the next steps in their lives.



◆ PUPILS from Buckland St Mary Primary School celebrate their Ofsted result

Police help businesses beat crime and keep roads safe

OFFICERS from the Honiton Rural Neighbourhood Police Team have been visiting businesses in the Offwell area offering advice on how to prevent crime.

Officers spent a morning visiting 15 businesses on the industrial estates within the parish offering advice on security and raising awareness about rural crime.

They also explained the benefits of the police team's community messaging service, which alerts businesses to crimes in the area through email or recorded tele-

phone messaging.

If anyone is interested in receiving any of these messages then contact your local Police Station or go to the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary website where you will find an online registration form.

■ POLICE officers have joined forces with pupils from Awliscombe Primary School to educate motorists in the importance of sticking to speed limits.

Last month, officers from the Honiton Rural Neighbourhood Police Team joined year five and

six pupils to carry out a speed check outside the school.

The children used a mobile speed indicator device to gather data of the speed of vehicles and also joined the police in using the hand held "speed gun".

The aim of the exercise was to reinforce to motorists the importance of adhering to speed limits, particularly in the area around the school.

Speeding motorists was one of the main concerns highlighted in recent Partners and Communities Together (PACT) surveys across the Honiton rural area.



◆ MEMBURY Primary School pupils cheer for their Ofsted result

EDDC withdraws legal case against Mansell Raceway

FROM page 1

monitor and record noise levels at the track, not to use a number of two-stroke kart race training Saturdays and introduce noise testing for all new leisure karts.

Bryan Holmes, spokesman for Mansell Raceway Ltd, added: "We hope these measures will go a long way towards satisfying our neighbours about our current and future use of the Raceway."

"Dunkeswell Kart Racing Club provides an important, safe and well managed facility for young people who want to become involved in

motor sport and we sincerely hope to continue to offer them this opportunity for many years to come."

Mervyn Rundle, of Solicitors Title, acting for Mansell Raceway and Dunkeswell Kart Club, said: "Karting will continue at Dunkeswell as it has done for the past 50 years. The district judge's decision that there is no statutory nuisance will stand as law."

Paul Diviani, chair of EDDC's development management committee, said: "There is no ideal solution to a situation such as this, because the interests of the circuit and the residents are so

far apart.

"To some extent, the council is between a rock and a hard place, because we want to help our residents but we have to act fairly towards the karting fraternity, who have been using this site for several decades."

"The Raceway and the Kart Club have entered into contractually binding obligations as a result of signing a section 106 agreement which ensures the periods of respite so sought after by the local residents."

"The council has taken the measured decision that this arrangement would be better in the long term when balanced

against the possible risk of a worse outcome had the matter been ruled upon by the court."

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timescale which we have left."

With academy status the school could expect to receive a further £370,000 a year in funding.

Academies are publicly funded, independent schools, which are free from local authority control.

Other freedoms include setting their own pay and conditions for staff, freedom from the national curriculum and the ability to set lengths of terms and schools day. Academies will also have greater control over school budgets.

Up until now only underachieving schools have been able to benefit from academy status. However, new Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has invited schools with an outstanding Ofsted rating to apply for academy status.

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New choir leader

THE Blackdown Hills Community Choir has a new leader.

Former leader Gabrielle Newman Turner as decided to retire from the choir, with Caroline Rigby taking her place.

The Blackdown Community Choir will continue to run from its usual base at Courtfields School, Wellington but on a Thursday evening instead of Wednesdays.

There will be a taster evening on Thursday, September 16th at 7.30pm for both existing choir members and new people alike.

The choir welcomes singers of all ages.

For further information contact Caroline on (01404) 881609.

Singing for Fun and Fitness (class specifically for retired people) will continue to run on alternate Friday mornings at the Bulford Hall in Wellington, but will be taken over by Michelle Ridings.

This is a fun class where people make new friends while improving muscle tone through singing.

Classes start after the summer break on Friday, September 17th.

Contact Michelle on (01823) 680172 for more information.

VE Day celebrations

SMEATHARPE airfield will be taken back in time to World War Two to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the VE and VJ day.

The South West Airfields Heritage Trust will be organising a two-day classic car and air event.

The highlight of the weekend, to take place on Saturday, August 21st and Sunday, August 22nd, will see an original Dakota fly-in complete with Spitfire escort.

The weekend will see a whole host of military vehicles and classic cars on display as well as planes. There will also be stalls, historical re-enactors and exhibits.

A percentage of money raised from the weekend will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

Cycle training

HONITON police officers are helping youngsters across the Blackdown Hills to stay safe on the roads.

They have visited three primary school giving cycle training to year five and six pupils.

Pupils from Upottery, Offwell and Payhembury learnt how to check their bikes, wear appropriate clothing for cycling and how to ride their bikes on the road in a safe and controlled manner.

After completing their training the children were able to test their new skills on the road and were presented with a certificate.

Danish Scouts visit

HEMYOCK will once again be welcoming a group of Danish Scouts and their leaders as they join the local troop for a holiday.

After six days at the Caddihoe Scout Centre in Ashclyst Forest, the visitors will be entertained by host families for a further six days. During this time they will take part in a family service at St Mary's on Sunday, August 1st at 11.30am parading from the Parish Hall at 11am.

Nursery expansion creates new jobs

SHORTLY after celebrating its first anniversary, a Wellington children's nursery is expanding and creating new jobs for local people.

Ofsted has approved a 25 per cent increase in the number of toddlers and pre-school age children who can attend the Blackdown Children's Day Nursery.

The nursery can now accommodate 16 youngsters in its playroom, in addition to the children under two years of age who are looked after in the baby unit.

This has allowed nursery owner Graham Brister-Thorne to create two more jobs for local people working in child care.

Laura Garland, of Rockwell Green, and Natasha Vernon, of Priory, Wellington, have both been employed on apprenticeships while studying for child care qualifications at Somerset College, Taunton.

Mr Brister-Thorne has also continued his development of facilities in the

nursery's extensive private grounds with the addition of a sandpit covered by a uv-protective sail, a pagoda-style outdoor sheltered area, and a wooden clatter bridge.

He said: "Together with my staff, we are constantly looking at ways to enhance the nursery and the experiences which our children enjoy while they are with us.

"I am delighted that Ofsted has shown confidence in what we have achieved so far and has approved our application to increase the number of children we can accept at Blackdown Children's Day Nursery.

Blackdown Children's Day Nursery opened in May of last year in a former piggery at Chelston, Wellington, opposite the new Westpark 26 business park.

The nursery offers weekday childcare from 8 am to 6 pm for parents with children aged from three months to five years.



◆ BLACKDOWN Children's Day Nursery playroom leader Kate Jenkins with some of the children playing in the new sand pit



Buckland bolters

◆ CHILDREN from the Buckland St Mary Primary School running club, the "Buckland Bolters" recently took part in the annual Crewkerne Junior Triathlon.

The children, aged eight to 11-years-old, had to swim, cycle and then run to complete the course.

The children were presented with commemorative t-shirts and medals as rewards for their achievements.

Rachael Auton, teacher and coach, said: "I am so incredibly proud of their efforts, it was really tough."

Pictured are Katie Lee, Chloe Webber, India Woodhams, Lauren Fenton and Millie Lanham.

Youngsters net £3,000 for basketball hoops

YOUNGSTERS in Hemdock can learn to dribble and shoot hoops thanks to new sporting equipment.

New basketball hoops have been installed at the Longmead Sports Field thanks to a grant from Devon Youth Services.

The project was the brainchild of local lad Tharan Rajakumar who, with the help of coach Steve Green, secured £3,209 in funding for the equipment.

A couple of "try out" sessions on Longmead's Multi-use Games Area earlier in the summer proved just how popular the game is, with more than 30 youngsters taking part.

Regular basketball sessions will now be running on Saturday, August 14th, Saturday, August 28th and Saturday, September 4th from 1-2pm for under 13s (minimum age

eight-years-old) and 2-3pm for under 18s.

Further dates will be arranged.

If you want to take

part or know more, go along to one of the sessions, or contact Tharan Rajakumar on 07870408715.



◆ BASKETBALL fans gather at the new hoops



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Sun shines on church fun day



◆ **YUMMY** food was served throughout the day including BBQ

THE sun shone for the Blackdown Hills Churches Together Fun Day held at the village of Kerswell.

More than 100 adults plus 50 children joined in the fun with face-painting, skittles, countryside skills, football, trampolining and bouncy castle.

The day concluded with a service of celebration, which included a puppet show for the children and singing. Bishop Bob attended the fair and interviewed several people from the local community, including Neil Parish, MP.



◆ **FACE** painting proved popular



◆ **YOUNG** lads show off their new faces



◆ **LIVE** music was just one of the highlights of the day



◆ **CHILDREN** enjoyed playing football

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WI craft sale

DUNKESWELL WI will be holding a sale of crafts and produce.

The event forms part of the group's 60th anniversary celebrations.

The sale of crafts and produce will take place on Saturday, August 21st from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Highfield Sports and Social Club.

Proceeds from the event will go to Honiton Hospital.

Computer upgrade

YARCOMBE Parish Council hopes to upgrade their office technology by applying for a grant.

They have applied for an Awards for All grant for £3,000 to purchase new communication equipment including laptop, and projection equipment.

It is hoped that with this equipment they will be able to offer councillors training and that they be able to hire it out to the wider community.

Money will also be used to reprint the popular parish walks leaflet.

Summer show

STOCKLAND and District Horticultural Society are gearing up for their annual summer show.

Schedules are available from the Kings Arms, Stockland and Membury, Dalwood and Yarcombe Post Offices.

The annual open summer show will take place on Saturday, August 14th at the Victory Hall, Stockland from 2.30pm.

Village sports day

A SPORTS and fun day will be held in Hemyock, giving local clubs the chance to promote themselves.

The Longmead Playing Field will be transformed into a haven for sports enthusiasts, giving people the chance to play all kinds of sports from basketball and boules to football and tennis. People will even have the chance to try Yoga.

If you would to promote your club at the event contact Julie Steed on (01823 680787).

The sports and fun day will take place on Sunday, August 22nd from 2.30pm at the Longmead Playing Field.

Music theme for summer fete

By Lisa Bright



◆ THE Chief, The Reverend Ron White opens the church fair



◆ ERIKA Jordan mans her stall

THE annual summer fair organised by St Mary's church, Hemyock raised more than £1,500.

Held in the recreation field, the fair was opened by Chief Gbobanuyi of Okitipupa, also known as The Reverend Ron White.

Dressed in splendid robes and hat, he told fair-goers how he recently returned to Nigeria for the 50th anniversary of a school where he had previously taught, to discover the honour of Chief was bestowed upon him.

He also said that it cost £2,650 a month to keep St Mary's Church, Hemyock, open and maintain worship and he welcomed everyone to spend their money at the fair.

Music was the theme of the day and was provided by Jason Baxter on piano, the Wellington Town Silver Band, Ron White and Nigel Atkinson on accordians and by the Hemyock Singers.



◆ PATRICIA fuller, Mary Beal and friends selling cakes

Apple AM, Taunton hospital's radio station, provided background music with a live link to the hospital and a group of the children from Hemyock primary school gave a display of country dancing.

Around 40 stallholders provided a variety of goods and sideshows ranging from the ever-popular cakes, tombolas, books, preserves and plants to charities, local businesses, crockery smashing and handicrafts.

The raffle, which had around 40 prizes, included a box of goods from Wallaces Farm Shop, Tea for Two from the Hemyock Post Offices and Stores and a takeaway meal for two from the Ivy Cafe.

The organisers would like to thank all those who took part and supported the event including the litter pickers who ensured no rubbish was left behind.

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DEPARTS: 18.10.10
RETURNS: 22.10.10

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Itinerary: Half day excursion to Dumfries, Carlisle, Hadrians Wall to Heysham Lake Windermere, Kirkstone Pass

**WAS £269pp
NOW £219pp**

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TURKEY & TINSEL

5 DAY SCOTTISH & NORTH ENGLAND

DEPARTS: 08.11.10
RETURNS: 12.11.10

Your break will begin by travelling north to Dumfriesshire and staying 4 nights at the Gretna Hall Hotel, situated in the heart of Gretna Green. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

Itinerary: Half day excursion to Dumfries, Carlisle, Hadrians Wall to Heysham Lake Windermere, Kirkstone Pass

**WAS £299pp
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RETURNS: 19.11.10

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News from around the villages in the Blackdown Hills

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI

ON a rainy evening, a glimpse of "summer tranquility" was brought to Sampford Arundel WI by David Manners, their guest speaker.

In fact there was little tranquillity, for David had won a garden design competition from the Sunday Express, which involved building the entire garden from scratch in just 10 days to be shown at the Hampton Court Flower Show.

With wonderful pictures members were taken on a whistle stop tour of the various stages, which included warming flowers in his airing cupboard and a huge wooden sculpted sheep.

David achieved a bronze award, which he richly deserved.

It was hoped that the perfect flowers they'd just seen would not put members off showing at that other very important Flower Show – Sampford Arundel the following Saturday. As well as organising the Show, the WI is also running the cake and kitchen stall.

Plans were also finalised for the walk, the quiz, the skittles, and the group business meeting. And reports on the golf-croquet, the tea at Dukeswell WI Anniversary, and the visit to see Calendar Girls all brought back happy memories.

A follow-up report on the National AGM showed that nationally there were 80,000 new members last year, which is reflected in the increase in their own membership.

The competition of a flower arrangement was won by Jean Hoare.

DUNKESWELL WI

MARGUERITE welcomed members and three guests to the July meeting of Dunkeswell WI.

Birthday ladies this month were Ruth Robinson, Joan Light, Andrea Carr and Brenda Northam.

Members had a lovely surprise when member Carly Green arrived to show off her new baby, two-week-old Freddie. Congratulations went to Carly and to proud grandmother Rosemary.

Ladies have had a busy month with four members attending the DFWI 90th Anniversary service at Exeter Cathedral, and a full coach party going to Torquay to see "Calendar Girls".

Eight people, plus Flo the dog, enjoyed an all day walk from Budleigh Salterton to Otterton and back, enjoying the lovely wild flowers and watching the brown trout in the river.

The 60th Anniversary Cream Tea was a great success, and it was lovely to have all age groups represented.

Members are now looking forward to their 50s and 60s night supper at the Community Hall.

Their next special event is a sale of 60 cakes plus crafts and produce at the Sports and Social Club on Saturday, August 21st from 10.30am – 12.30pm, the proceeds of which will go to Honiton Hospital.

Marguerite then introduced the speaker, Pam Hunt from Sheldon.

Whilst making some lovely flower arrangements, Pam told members how she became a florist, and how she ended up with five shops in Aldershot. She told them funny and sad stories of her involvement with the military there, and how she also spent 18 years helping with the flowers at Wimbledon.

Pam finished by making a fantastic pedestal arrangement. It was a most amusing evening and Jan gave the very well deserved vote of thanks.

The competition for a "Flower Ornament" was won by June Viles with Hilda Wenman-Miles second and Phyllis Gunningham third.

A lovely red Sweet William brought in by Ruth Robinson won the Flower of the Month.

New members and guests are welcome to join members on Thursday, August 12th, 7.30pm at the Village Hall for the next meeting when George Williams is returning to complete his story of walking around Britain.

SHELDON CHURCH FETE

SHELDON'S annual church fete was as busy as ever as people flocked to enjoy stalls, games and sunny weather at Sheldon Court.

The tea ladies were kept busy all afternoon serving homemade cakes and scones. And the stalls were also busy with Churchwarden Christine Marsh selling raffle tickets and Cyril and Christine White manning the tombola.

The games proved very popular and included "Coins in the Fish Tank", the "Journey of Charlie the Crow" and a game involving marbles and flowerpots.

The children's fancy dress competition was



◆ ENTRIES to the fete fancy dress competition wait to be judged

for a favourite film or TV character and the winners were "Tallulah" from "Bugsy Malone" and "Tarzan".

Organisers said: "With-

out the help of all those who erected and dismantled marquees, ran stalls, baked cakes and donated prizes we would not have been able to raise the grand sum of almost £850 for church funds.

"Our sincere thanks go everyone and also to Marie-Claire and Nick Gutfreund for allowing the fete to take place in the grounds of their lovely house."



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The
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First woodland fair a great success

THE first Blackdowns Woodland Fair was a great success.

Fair-goers were treated to a wealth of woody attractions and stalls selling a wide variety of wood related products, including wood burning stoves, bespoke furniture, willow work, wood turning crafts and an art tent.

Most stall holders also gave all-day demonstrations of their skills with opportunities for visitors to try their hand.

There was a fantastic range of family-friendly "have-a-go" activities, such as green-woodworking, bush craft skills, forest school workshops teaching how to create fire by friction, and guided woodland wildlife walks.

You could also watch displays of aerial tree surgery, participate in long-bow archery and take the reins in a horse logging demonstration. In the saw yard various mobile saws were in action whilst a steam-powered saw bench cut a large trunk of local oak into sawn timber ready to be made into seats and interpretation boards for the local Neroche forest scheme.

A prize of a wooden nuthatch sculpture, beautifully carved from a piece of spalted beech by local artist Peter Vernon, was awarded to the lucky winner of a questionnaire prize draw.

John Greenshields, the event organiser said: "It has been an enjoyable day with a relaxed and upbeat atmosphere; we're thrilled with more than 1,000 visitors and we are already thinking about next year's fair".

One visitor commented: "We were only going to come for a couple of hours but stayed all afternoon, there was so much for the kids to do and the location is beautiful."

The day was organised by the Blackdown and East Devon Woodland Association through the Working Our Woodlands project, funded by the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs and Making it Local, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER. The Fair was also supported by the Neroche Scheme, the Silvanus Trust and local sponsors.

Working our Woodlands with John Greenshields

THE Blackdown Woodland Fair was a great success and the weather held.

The end of August and the beginning of September are the time the hedges are starting to be cut.

If you want more hedgerow trees now is the time to mark them to stop them being cut. The best way is to tie something bright high up the tree so the driver of the cutter can see it. We have done this on our farm for several years and it's been very successful.

The Woodland Association is growing by the minute, with a lot of new

members, but most are contractors and while this is good we need more woodland owners to join.

The benefits for owners are they can get free advice through the Working Our Woodlands Project which has strong ties to the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission.

There are schemes within this project specifically aimed at woodlands in this area and are grant aided, they include planting and management plans.

It was noticeable at the woodland fair the interest in "horse logging", this is

a "soft" way of extracting timber from difficult sites with less damage to the flora and fauna.

This method is suited to many areas on the Blackdowns and Richard who was the horse logger at the fair is keen for people to contact him. His contact is on the web site.

The saw yard was also popular and the saws were cutting Oak for two locations within the Neroche Forest. One is an interpretation of the Geology of Staple Hill and

the other is a seat destined of Castle Neroche both to be carved by



My usual contacts are 01823 660764 or park-farm@tinyonline.co.uk.



◆ TREEWISE and Blackdown Environmental gave wood cutting demonstrations



◆ FIRE by friction demonstrations draws a crowd



◆ PEOPLE gather round to see demonstrations from Wildside Education

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Mole Valley Farmers

to sponsor Plymtree Country Tots

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, leading rural retailer Mole Valley Farmers in Cullompton has committed to sponsoring Plymtree Country Tots, organising educational visits and fundraising days for the class of 2010.

Angela from Mole Valley Farmers in Cullompton said, "We're very proud of the fact that we're owned and managed by farmers and it's vital that we support and give back to the communities we live and work in."

Located on Honiton Road, Mole Valley Farmers Cullompton offers everything for the rural and town dweller from animal husbandry, fencing and feed for the large scale farmer, plants, tools and clothing for keen gardeners and pet and equestrian essential for animal lovers.

On Saturday 14th August, Mole Valley Farmers in Cullompton will host a free, fun packed equine charity fun day. A number of local animal charities will showcase the fantastic work they do including The Miniature Pony Rescue Centre near Honiton, The Conquest Centre for Disabled Riders near Taunton and The Donkey Sanctuary from Sidmouth.

Visitors on the day will be able to meet Mole Valley Farmers in house vet Patrick Traill who will be discussing seasonal equine problems such as sweet itch and flies. Experts from Merial will also be on site to give advice on worming horses. Other event day highlights include a 'Hunt the Pony' competition for all the family as well as fantastic event day offers and a free prize draw. All donations on the day will be given to the attending charities.

To show its commitment and thanks to the Cullompton community, Mole Valley Farmers is offering one lucky reader the chance to win £25 worth of vouchers every month for a year to spend in store.

To enter, simply visit the Mole Valley Farmers team at the Honiton Show on Thursday 5th August or enter at the Cullompton branch. Entries close at the end of August.

Stock up on your rural essentials with Mole Valley Farmers competition to win £25 a month to spend for a whole year in your local Cullompton store.



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Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding

It has been busy year for the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership ensuring the landscape, wildlife and heritage can be enjoyed by everyone, as well as supporting the local communities within the area.

One of big successes of the year was the start of our new European grant scheme – Making it Local – to help local businesses and organisations build on the value of the protected landscape. Just one of the projects to benefit from this funding is the Working our Woodlands initiative. Last year was International Year of Astronomy and the AONB's contribution was to run a series of stargazing events for communities and schools to help people to appreciate the beauty and tranquillity of our night skies.

Landscape and Environment

Working our Woodlands

A locally based co-ordinator is working with woodland owners and wood-users to help strengthen local supply chains and maximise business opportunities, while promoting sustainable woodland management.

High Nature Value farmland

The Blackdown Hills AONB was chosen to take part in a new case study that is investigating farming for nature in preparation for the review of the Common Agricultural Policy in 2013.

Hands on History

The AONB, along with Devon County Council, provided funding to enable local children and adults to find out more about the huge archaeological find – more than 50,000 pieces of medieval pottery – at Churchill Farm, Hemyock.

Students of the stars

Local astronomer Simon Ould from Hemyock took his portable planetarium into the local schools to explain the mysteries to the universe.

Local wildlife on the map

The AONB commissioned audits of the wildlife in seven Blackdown Hills parishes – Broadhembury, Buckland St Mary, Culmstock, Hemyock, Neroche, Stockland and Upottery. These include suggestions on how these parishes can improve their local environment for wildlife.

Locally distinctive design

An updated Countryside Design Summary now provides brief guidance on how to ensure new buildings and extensions fit into landscape and conserve the distinctive character of the AONB.



A pupil from Hemyock school gets his hands on some ancient pottery



The AONB team provided specific support to the Neroche Scheme during 2009/10 through:

- Strategic guidance and advice to the Neroche Scheme steering group from the AONB manager
- Grant support from the Sustainable Development Fund for the community-produced local heritage book
- Support from the AONB information officer for shared promotional work, through the AONB website and via local media
- Joint development work and support over potential future projects in the Neroche area

The Neroche Scheme

2009/10 was the third year of the Neroche Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and led by the Forestry Commission with the Blackdown Hills AONB and a range of other partners. The Scheme has continued to take a holistic approach to the landscape of the northern ridge of the AONB, seeking to sustain its ecology, reveal its heritage, test innovative approaches to its management, and make it work for people as a place for learning, enjoyment and well-being.

During 2009/10 the Neroche Scheme has achieved:

A landscape-scale biodiversity project

- 250 hectares of open habitats have now been restored within the diverse 1,000-hectare public forest, grazed by the Neroche herd of English Longhorn cattle.
- Neroche has funded the provision of wildlife habitat management advice to private landowners by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Sustainable access and cutting-edge interpretation

- The Staple Fitzpaine Herepath has continued to provide a fantastic experience of the AONB landscape, and is now equipped with mobile, digitally-based heritage interpretation – the Neroche Digital Trail Guide.
- Staple Hill all-ability trail has become one of the most popular recreational sites in the AONB, offering unrivalled hilltop views across Somerset.

Using the forest to nurture community, learning and health

- 34 teachers from 14 schools have now been trained through Neroche as Forest School leaders and assistants, and a partnership with Taunton Learning Partnership has extended this provision to 2011.
- Neroche has continued to run popular programmes of family bushcraft, history talks and wildlife walks, while supporting Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership in providing health walks in the forest for disadvantaged groups.

- Some 1,500 people have taken part in Neroche activities to date, amassing more than 650 volunteer days. Highlights have included the monthly Neroche Conservation Volunteers' practical days, training volunteers in wildflower survey, and Trailwatchers monitoring the Staple Fitzpaine Herepath.

Helping local people find jobs in the countryside

- Following a successful apprenticeship programme earlier in the Neroche Scheme, the Forestry Commission and the Silvanus Trust secured Making it Local funding and national FC investment in 2009 to run a national pilot for a new Forestry NVQ in the Blackdowns and East Devon, involving a range of employers.

A vibrant interest in local history and landscape heritage

- The Neroche Community History project has continued to be one of the most effective participatory local history projects in the region, combining hands-on excavation with individual research. The project will culminate in the publication of a community-produced book about the northern Blackdowns in late 2010.

Neroche Legacy

- The Forestry Commission is continuing to work with the AONB and other partners to build a legacy on the foundation of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, to continue this work beyond 2011.
- Some members of the Neroche Local Stakeholders Group have begun to set up a new charitable company – The Blackdown Hills Trust – which will seek to benefit the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the whole AONB.

Natural Beauty – A review of 2009–10

Awareness and Enjoyment

Social networking

Last year the AONB launched itself into the world of social networking and set up Facebook and Twitter accounts. These allow followers to receive updates and interact with us, or provide feedback on our work.

Outdoor Classroom

The AONB funded temporary transport so that pupils from Hemyock Primary School could enjoy various outdoor learning activities. We are pleased to report that the school has now found a site within walking distance.

Learning countryside skills

Initiated by the Somerset Rural Youth Project, Blackdowns Young Environmentalists brought together young people living in the Blackdown Hills and gave them the chance to learn practical rural skills while carrying out community conservation tasks.



Safe Hands come to the Blackdowns.

Helping hands

A branch of Exeter Community Service Volunteers, Safe Hands, do invaluable work for the AONB such as putting more than 6,000 leaflets into envelopes each year. To say thank-you, we organised a special afternoon out in the Blackdown Hills, with a walk at Staple Hill and a locally produced cream tea.

Discover the Hills from Chard

Six circular walks in and around Chard is the first in a new series of leaflets promoting walks from the market towns on the fringes of the Hills. South Somerset District Council supported the AONB in producing this leaflet.

Out in the countryside

We once again compiled a comprehensive programme of events, with everything from Mushroom Forays to Stargazing proving popular. We also updated our database and there is now the option to be sent an electronic copy of our countryside events leaflet. If you would like to receive this email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk

Walks in the Hills

We collaborated with the Neroche Scheme to produce a new leaflet of six circular walks in the north eastern part of the Blackdown Hills. There are three other leaflets in the series, covering Hemyock, Stockland and the South Western area, all these walks can be downloaded from our website.

Economy and Community

Planning in the community

The AONB, along with Devon County Council, is helping the Blackdown Hills network of parishes to produce a community-based plan that will identify common concerns and aspirations. This initiative is one of four pilots being developed in conjunction with the Devon Association of Local Councils.

Making it Local

The new European-funded grants programme, Making it Local, supported some 12 projects to the value of more than £500,000 across the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs. Among these were a forestry apprenticeship scheme, an interpretation centre at the Otter Brewery and Digital Mentors, a programme which encourages individuals and businesses to make use of the latest computer technology. For more information see www.makingitlocal.org



Estonian visitors at the Common Loaf Bakery.

Visitors from the Baltic

Members of an Local Action Group from the island of Saaremaa in Estonia, came to the Blackdown Hills AONB to compare notes with local businesses and communities. They were particularly interested in the marketing of our local products, especially meat and fibre.

Supporting sustainability

This year the AONB Sustainable Development Fund supported 24 projects that had a total value of some £166,300 at a cost to the fund of £48,400. These included Border Dance, a community dance project performed at Castle Neroche, access improvements to Blackdown Common above Culmstock, and a film of the Blackdown Hills Hedge Laying Association's annual competition.



Border Dance – a community dance project



Silver-washed fritillary feeding on bramble flower.

Who is the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership?

The Blackdown Hills AONB is managed by a partnership of national agencies, local authorities, conservation organisations and community groups who work together to protect this special place. A management group of 20 members meets four times a year to oversee the staff team and direct the work of the Partnership.

Budget

The Blackdown Hills AONB is publically funded by Natural England, Devon and Somerset County Councils, East Devon, Mid Devon and South Somerset District Councils and Taunton Deane Borough Council. We also bid to other sources of funding to bring in money for projects.

Our income for 2009/10 was £343,900, and we spent some £100,000 on projects run either by the AONB team or partner organisations.

Working together

In addition to working in the Blackdown Hills, the AONB staff team has cooperated closely with East Devon and Quantock Hills AONBs. We are a member of the protected landscape family, which includes national parks. This is co-ordinated regionally by the South West Protected Landscape Forum and nationwide through the National Association for AONBs.

All our partner organisations also help to conserve and enhance the landscape of the Blackdown Hills, for example the Forestry Commission has continued to run its very successful Neroche Landscape Partnership Scheme, see opposite.





Gardens in the BLACKDOWN HILLS



The buzz word is bees

At last the sunshine is bringing everything on - climbers need tying in, shrubs are sprouting new growth and seedlings are appearing. But one of the most heartening aspects of spring is to hear the welcoming sound of bees doing their important work in the garden.

Perhaps we should all take a leaf out of Sarah Brown's book. The Prime Minister's wife has installed two bamboo bee boxes and a bumble bee house in the Downing Street garden to give these beneficial insects somewhere safe to hibernate, while the gardeners at Number 10 have planted bee-friendly borders.

Bee populations in the UK are declining, largely due to the loss of wildflower habitats in which they thrive. Many argue that the extensive use of pesticides on farmland, which kills off the wildflowers, is a big contributor.

Bumblebees are major pollinators of most of our wildflowers and crops. If they continue to disappear the plants will set less seed, resulting in sweeping changes to the countryside, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

So we need to do our bit in our own gardens and it is rel-

atively easy to create a bee-friendly border. Bees need flowers from spring to autumn, but they have to be the right types of flowers.

Exotic, highly cultivated hybrid varieties are often lacking in pollen, while many popular summer bedding choices, including Pelargoniums, busy lizzies and begonias, are also of little benefit to the bumblebee.

Try growing cottage garden plants or wildflowers rich in nectar, such as foxgloves, hollyhocks, lupins, lavender and catmint, verbascum, snapdragon and sedum, to attract these creatures.

Other great magnets for bees include thyme, heather, purple sage, sunflowers, honeysuckle, Verbena bonariensis, cranesbill geraniums and borage. Daisy-like blooms with big open flowers are often rich in nectar, so you can't go wrong with michaelmas daisies, rudbeckias and asters.

Wildflower choices might include poppies, mallow, ranunculus ficaria, salvia pratensis, knautia arvensis and Lamium purpureum, while bulbs such as alliums, crocus, snowdrop, grape hyacinth and Chionodoxa luciliae will all attract bees.

Plant sweetpeas alongside climbing beans to encourage a better crop. The bees will be attracted to the sweetpea flowers and are then more likely to pollinate the beans as well.

Bumblebee species differ in the length of their tongues, and as a result prefer different flowers, so it's important to grow a range of different things.

Avoid elaborate double flowered varieties as some are bred without male and female parts, while others have so many petals bees can't reach the nectar and pollen to collect it. This is the main reason why single dahlias are popular with many bees, while doubles are frequently ignored.

Plants growing in sunny, sheltered spots are more likely to be visited by bees than those growing in shaded or windswept places. Low-growing plants such as herbaceous perennials are more attractive to bees if grown in large clumps or patches, rather than being scattered among other plants.

Design your garden so it offers a continuous succession of flowers providing nectar and pollen throughout the year, including some nectar-rich plants which flower early or late, such as winter aconites, which are a vital early source of nectar for bees emerging from hibernation.

If you want a change from a high-maintenance lawn, turn a section of it into a wildflower meadow, planting spring-flowering bulbs such as the snake's head fritillary and wildflowers such as the cowslip, ragged robin and wood anemone. You can still create an informal path through the area with your mower.

If you grow the right plants, even in the smallest space, your garden should soon be buzzing with activity.

Helping the wildlife

More gardeners are creating wild areas to attract bees, butterflies, hedgehogs and birds. If you would like to help the wildlife around you here are some tips on how to create a friendly environment. If you want to attract hedgehogs, go for flowering hedges as a screening which provides flowers and fruits for wildlife and cover for the animals.

Creating a wood pile should encourage them to build a nest underneath. Compost heaps also attract hedgehogs, which not only nest there but also feed off the insects that congregate.

Allow nettles and weeds to take over a corner of your garden, which will provide privacy for small creatures. Having nesting boxes for hedgehogs, birds and bats might also encourage these creatures into your garden.

To encourage moths, grow nectar-rich tobacco plants and red campion, and night-scented plants such as evening primrose, honeysuckle and stocks.

Water is also essential, from ponds where frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies and more can live, to a simple bird bath for drinking and preening. If you don't have a

pond, think about installing one, even if it's just a small pond or bog garden. An area of water attracts a multitude of creatures including frogs, toads, newts, diving beetles, water scorpions and thirsty hedgehogs.

Choose an area away from trees, especially sycamore. One side of the pond should gradually slope to allow hedgehogs and other small wildlife an exit.

Planting hedges and borders of shrubs will provide shelter and nesting sites for birds, and fruits and berries provide food, while log piles and areas left wild give creatures somewhere to hibernate.



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www.willowbrooknurseryandgardencentre.co.uk

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*Flexible Travel Options on this and other dates, and fly cruise packages also available.

From **£289.00**
Departs 4 April 2011

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From **£299.00**
Departs 23 December 2010

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Departs 13 September 2010

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Enjoy the Autumn colours with a cruise on Lake Windermere, a trip on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway plus a visit to Chester and a tour of the beautiful Peak District.

Includes ● Coach travel throughout ● 2 nights half-board at a good standard hotel in the Manchester/Liverpool area ● A full day in the Lake District ● A trip on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway ● A cruise on Lake Windermere ● A visit to Chester ● A tour of the Derbyshire Peak District ● Tour Manager services

From **£139.95**
Departs 15 October 2010

NEW

Four-Star Hidden Portugal

Experience the stunning scenery and historic towns and cities of a land far removed from the package holiday havens of the Algarve.

Includes ● Return specially chartered flights to Oporto direct from Exeter ● Return airport to hotel transfers ● 7 nights half-board at the 4★ Estalagem Santo André ● Excursions to Oporto, Viana do Castelo & Valença do Minho & Vinho Verde ● Tour Manager services

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Departs 21 September 2010

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Visit the truly magical Alnwick Garden & enjoy a tour of Northumbria's beautiful Heritage Coastline.

Includes ● Return coach travel from the local area ● 3 nights' half-board at the 3★ Holiday Inn, Washington ● Entrance to The Alnwick Garden ● Visits to York, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne ● A Tour Manager

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Departs 23 Jul & 1 Oct 2010

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Departs 13 & 27 August 2010

Birmingham Tattoo

Here's your chance to enjoy an unforgettable evening at the 22nd Birmingham Tattoo in the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham.

Includes ● Coach travel throughout ● One night's B&B at a good hotel in the Midlands area such as the Novotel, Coventry ● A seat for the Birmingham Tattoo (upgrades available at a supplement) ● A visit to Stratford on Avon ● The services of a Tour Manager

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Departs 27 November 2010

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What's on *in the* *Blackdown Hills*

WHAT'S ON LISTINGS

Friday, August 13th
SAMPFORD PEVERELL
Whist Drive at the Village Hall
at 7.30pm. Telephone 01884
821309.

Saturday, August 21st
UPOTTERY
Upottery Flower Show at The
Manor Room. Opens 2.30pm,
prizes and awards at 4.30pm.
Teas, raffle, bring and buy stall.
Telephone 01823 601420 for
more details.

Sunday, August 22nd
HEMYOCK
Longmead Sports and Fun
Day 2.30pm - 6pm at Long-
mead Field. Telephone 01823
680746 for more details.

Saturday, August 28th
TATWORTH
Tatworth Flower and Produce
Show at the Memorial Hall,
Tatworth. From 2.30pm. Or-
ganised by the horticultural
Society. Telephone 01460
220658 for more details.

Sunday, August 29th
and Monday, August 30th
UFFCULME
Bank Holiday Steam-up! at
Cold Harbour Mill. Telephone
01884 840960 for more details.

Monday, August 30th
CLAYHIDON
Village Fete at Glebe Field
from 2pm. Telephone 01823
680541 for more details.

Saturday, September 25th
UPOTTERY
MacMillan Coffee Morning at
Danes Close from 10am -
12noon. Raffle stalls, cakes
etc.

Email your diary
dates to
rob@pmedia.co.uk

ESCOT EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Exhibiting Artist
Tamsin Green

*An exhibition of the artist's work in the
Coach House Restaurant*

Tuesday 10th August

Gates Open 6.30 Performance 7.30

Pride and Prejudice - By Jane Austen

IN a social whirlwind of balls, dinners and very eligible offi-
cers, Lizzie Bennett and Fitzwilliam Darcy stand alone as the
only sane people - and they hate each other! Or do they? Can
she see beyond his pride, and can he overcome her prejudice,
in order to achieve their mutual happiness?

If your idea of Jane Austen is costume-drama and tea-parties,
then this sparkling adaptation, based entirely on the original
novel, is something to make you change your mind. Bring a
picnic and have a ball as the irrepressible Illyria sharpen their
claws to bring you Jane Austen at her vibrant and pacy best!



For more information and to book places,
please contact Escot on 01404 822188 or visit
Ottery St Mary Tourist Information Centre.



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66a High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PS
www.honitonshow.co.uk

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Fire Engines • Military Vehicles • Model Tent • Trade Stands
Market Stalls • Refreshments • Autojumble • Organs
Mini Quads • Junior Fairground

An Auction of Collectors' Items will take place on Monday 30th at 10.00am
Application Forms available from Stags, 66 High Street, Honiton. Tel: 01404 45885

ADMISSION: Adults - £6.00 OAP's - £5.00
Children Under 5 - Free 5 and Under 16 Years - £2.00

Enquiries to the Secretary: Mrs. A.J. Mutter
167 Manstone Avenue, Sidmouth, EX10 9TJ. Tel: 01395 516484

Barleymow's Maize Maze & Family Fun Day



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Amazing Maize Maze

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Restaurant

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...and much, much more!

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The Farm Shop is open Monday - Sunday
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Eating out *in the Blackdown Hills*

Fresh and local food at the Old Inn

AT the Old Inn they write a fresh board menu every day. Chef Adam cooks 10 or 12 items fresh each day and serve them to you hot and delicious.

They have a small selection of starters and of course, have steaks and old favourites on every lunch and dinner.

At lunch time they also provide a selection of baguettes, ploughman's and jacket potatoes. Leigh helps Adam to prepare four or five desserts each day to complete your meal.

Starters are £3.50 and £4.95 and main courses range from £8.95 to £15.95 The Old Inn's philosophy is simple: We buy local and we buy fresh.

They can't guarantee organic - they leave their long haired neighbour to that one, and if you want a tomato on your salad in December you

can. It won't be grown locally but we will have bought it locally and it will be fresh.

Remember - It can't be fresh if the menu has more items listed than the number of customers seated.

THE Old Inn has two bars and a restaurant. The smaller bar is to the front of the building and offers a cosy environment for a drink and a chat with villagers.

The Inglenook lounge bar is home, as the name suggests, to the fabulous open fire-place and bar. They stock local ales and now hold a range of other Devon products, including Burt's Crisps, Luscombe organic drinks and Devonian spring water.

The staff are well trained and can assist with your food orders at the bar.

With a wide collection of local memorabilia and photos the bar offers a fascinating look back into its past.

THE beer garden is big and is south facing, behind the main building it is protected from



the road.

The patio below is a real sun trap and last year saw customers eating outside through till late October.

There is also plenty of room to let the kids run about and all menus are served in the garden.

Lamb & Flag
Bridgeton Hill, Taunton, TA3 7SL
01297 401 734

A handy, relaxed welcome awaits you at the Lamb & Flag, a 17th Century Inn, full of character and tradition.

We offer a great selection of food and local ales and there's no need to get into a scum to be served at the bar!

Our large beer garden offers sweeping views of the Vale of Taunton, so come along and enjoy!

www.lambandflag.co.uk

Whitty's
Pizzeria & Coffee shop
01297 851333

Leigh and Duncan are pleased to announce that Whitty's Pizzeria and Coffee Shop will be opening soon in West Street, Axminster

Serving Freshly made Pizza, Salads and Pasta specials
Lunch time Paninis and cake as well as a selection of locally roasted coffee

Bottled beers and ciders from across the west country

Building on their success at The Old Inn, Kilmington, Leigh and Duncan are offering a family restaurant in the heart of Axminster

For more information please contact 01297 32096

The Old Inn, Kilmington

Enjoy the Summer in our fantastic garden
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Seafood platters
Summer pudding

Beer Festival
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www.thekingsarms.org.uk



POOL TOURNAMENT EVERY THURSDAY



QUIZ FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

Sat 21st Aug **THE REDS** 8.30pm
Fri 27th Aug **THE SEATREES** 8.30pm

Debbie and Phil Rees have been new owners of The Kings Arms in Stockland since the 1st March and along with Debbie's son Oli, who is the chef, makes the Kings Arms a real family concern. Living locally, Debbie has previous experience in the pub trade and Oli is a fully trained, enthusiastic chef. The Kings Arms dates from the 16th century and is set in the delightful village of Stockland which has stunning view across the Blackdown Hills. The Kings Arms with its thatched roof, exposed walls, log fires and beams offers a truly traditional pub experience.

The Inn offers two dining areas, serving home cooked food using local ingredients and high quality fresh meat, fish and vegetables. The coachman's restaurant is believed to be haunted and the Cotley bar offers a less formal dining experience. There is a huge choice of delicious meals on the menu including a specials board which changes regularly, for those who love seafood, choose the scallops and tiger prawns, if you're looking for hearty fayre choose the faggots braised in ale and for the vegetarian, sample the wensleydale cheese patties or the chef's special pea and mint risotto. Traditional sunday roast is also served using top quality sirloin beef, roast loin of pork a fish course and a vegetarian course, served from 12.00pm - 2pm. Food is served 7 days a week from 12 noon till 2pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm, bookings are recommended. There is a comprehensive stock of wines on offer and local real ales, Otter, Amber and Summa That (from Branscombe Breweries) along with guest ales are available on tap.

There is a dart board and new pool table, Debbie and Phil are introducing a pool tournament every Thursday, there is also a skittle alley and new teams are welcome. There is regular live music and a quiz the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm with proceeds going to charity.

Our large skittle alley can be transformed for functions for up to 50 people, from wedding receptions to birthdays and anniversaries we can cater for any occasion. We have three comfortable letting rooms which are ideal for those who want to stay and guests can take advantage of the traditional english breakfast served in the morning.

NEW SKITTLE TEAMS WELCOME



LOCAL REAL ALES

THE KINGS ARMS INN

Starters

Soup of the Day (v) Served with crusty bread	£4.50
Garlic Mushrooms (v) Served with a crusty roll	£4.95
Wensleydale Cheese Patties (v) With an apricot and thyme marmalade	£4.95
Chicken Liver Pate With a fruity chutney and toast	£5.25
Brie and Red Onion Marmalade Tart (v) Served Cherry Tomato, Chilli and Lime Chutney	£4.95

Main Course

Steak, Mushroom and Guinness Pie Served with mashed potato or chips and a rich onion gravy	£10.95
8oz Rib Eye Steak With Chunky Chips, Field Mushroom and Peppercorn Sauce	£16.95
Roast Rump of Lamb With Moroccan Bean and Pepper Stew	£14.95
Slow Roasted Belly Pork Served on Champ with an Apple and Cider Sauce	£11.95
Lambs Liver and Crispy Bacon Pan Fried and Served with Mashed Potato and Onion Gravy All the above served with Seasonal Vegetables	£8.95
The King 8oz Burger and Chips (Toppings 70p extra Blue Cheese, Bacon or Cheddar and Red Onion Marmalade)	£8.50
Pea and Mint Risotto Topped with Parmesan Shavings (v) Served with Garlic Bread	£9.95

Sample Bar Menu

Trio of local sausages with mashed potato and onion gravy

Gammon, pineapple and duck egg and chips

Sample A La Carte Menu

Horn crusted rack of lamb with bubble and squeak

Smoked haddock rarebit topped with a poached egg

10oz Rump steak

7oz Fillet steak

Vegetarian options

Wild Mushroom linguine

Wensleydale cheese patties

THE KINGS ARMS INN Lunch Menu

Soup of the Day £4.50
Served with crusty bread
Whitebait with Tartare Sauce £5.50

Garlic Mushrooms with Crusty Bread £4.95

Wensleydale Cheese Patties £4.95
Served with Apricot and Thyme Marmalade

Roast Sirloin of Beef £11.95

Roast Pork Loin £9.95

Pan Fried Sea Bass with Salad £11.95

Vegetarian Option £9.95

White Profiterole Picasso

A Biscuit Base White Chocolate Mousse with Profiteroles inside
Croissant and Whisky Bread and Butter Pudding
Mango Sorbet with a Fruit Compote
Vanilla Panna Cotta with a Blackberry Compote

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Driving through *the Blackdown Hills*

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- Autobiography Black: a very special 40th anniversary limited edition

A NEW, class-leading V8 diesel engine, new 8-speed transmission, two significant Terrain Response® upgrades and subtle external styling enhancements are amongst the features on the new 2011 Range Rover – on-sale in the UK from late September 2010.

"The 2011 Range Rover retains its position as one of the world's most complete luxury vehicles. Its combination of reduced CO2 emissions and superior engine performance continue to make it a clear industry benchmark. And with the introduction of our all-new 'super diesel', we see the Range Rover delivering over 30mpg for the first time," said Phil Popham, Land Rover managing director.

The LR-TDV8 4.4-litre with parallel sequential turbocharging replaces the outstanding LR-TDV8 3.6-litre and is unique to the Range Rover. The all-new LR-TDV8 combines superior power and massive torque with unparalleled levels of refinement. De-

spite the extra performance, this V8 engine is cleaner too, delivering even lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions than its predecessor. The combined cycle fuel consumption of the new LR-TDV8 4.4-litre is 30.1mpg, making this the first Range Rover ever to better 30mpg.

With 313PS and 700Nm torque, the Range Rover's new powertrain reduces CO2 emissions by an impressive 14 percent from 294g/km to 253g/km. The new diesel engine is helped in this respect by its marriage to a new, electronically controlled, ZF 8HP70, 8-speed automatic. This combination is enough to catapult the Range Rover from rest to 60mph in a mere 7.5 seconds and complete the 50mph-70mph dash in just 4.0 seconds while the top speed increases from 125mph to 130mph.

Available only on 4.4-litre LR-TDV8 models, this 'smart' transmission integrates with the diesel engine to deliver the most efficient operating

regime in all conditions. To reflect the performance of the new 4.4-litre LR-TDV8, diesel models are fitted with the same Brembo-based braking system fitted to the 5.0-litre LR-V8 supercharged model. The system comprises 380mm ventilated front discs with unique, lightweight aluminium six-piston opposed action monoblock callipers. 365mm ventilated discs with single piston sliding callipers are fitted at the rear.

ZF 8HP70 automatic gearbox partners the 4.4-litre LR-TDV8

The new ZF 8HP70 8-speed transmission is tuned to take advantage of the LR-TDV8's low end torque with torque converter lock-up being selected as early as possible to reduce slip and energy loss. The wider ratio spread, tall over-driven top gear and the

fact that no more than two internal clutches are open at any one time all contribute to improved fuel economy and emissions.

Transmission Idle Control disengages 70 percent of the drive when the vehicle is stationary and the engine is idling

in Drive, significantly reducing consumption in the urban cycle. In cold conditions, the transmission selects a lower gear to promote fast warm up and get the engine up to its efficient operating temperature as soon as possible.

Driver controls include

steering wheel-mounted paddle-shift as standard enabling the driver to take control of gear shifting manually. The CommandShift lever is replaced by a rotary knob for selecting park, reverse, neutral, drive or sport modes, the last of these optimising the

gearbox response times for maximum acceleration, improved response and sharper upshifts. The selector knob is flush with the centre console when the ignition is switched off, rising up when it is switched on. To avoid confusion, the Terrain Response® Rotary Switch is replaced by a new Terrain Response® Optimisation Switch.

Paul Walker, chief programme engineer says: "The performance of our new LR-TDV8 can only be described as awe-inspiring. We are confident that the combination of reduced CO2 emissions, EU5 compliance and the massive increase in performance while delivering a huge improvement in fuel economy, is world class."

For 2011, the Range Rover retains the same class-leading 5.0-litre LR-V8, supercharged petrol engine married to the ZF HP28 6-speed automatic transmission introduced in 2010. Developing 510PS and 625Nm torque the Supercharged LR-V8 will take the Range Rover from 0-60mph in 5.9 seconds and remains the flagship model.

Subtle Exterior Design Revisions

Inside the cabin there are optional illuminated treadplates for the front doors and new transmission controls for the diesel model. Detail improvements to the exterior include new 'Jupiter' grilles and side vents for the diesel models.

A new Exterior Design Pack option gives customers the chance to give their Range Rover a more individual look and new colours and wheels have been added to the range. The Exterior Design Pack comprises of a revised front bumper with fog lamp surrounds, front grille and side vents in Titan finish, revised side sills, rear bumper and stainless steel exhaust finishers.

The range of exterior paint colours has been expanded with two further choices, Fuji White (replacing Alaska White) and Baltic Blue (replacing Buckingham Blue).

Terrain Response® Enhancements
The 2011 Range Rover is further enhanced by improvements to the Ter-

rain Response® system in the form of Hill Start Assist and Gradient Acceleration Control. Hill Start Assist retains the initial driver-generated brake pressure long enough for the foot to move from brake pedal to throttle, without the car rolling backwards. Gradient Acceleration Control is designed to provide safety cover on severe gradients when the driver does not have Hill Descent Control engaged.

Autobiography Black: a very special 40th anniversary limited edition

The ultimate incarnation of the Range Rover, the Autobiography Black 40th anniversary limited edition is quite simply the last word in bespoke vehicles.

With a unique finish in Barolo Black, the exterior also features 20-inch alloy wheels, Diamond Turned, a unique front grille with Titan grille mesh, a bright chrome grille 'U' edge and black grille surround. Side vents have a new mesh set off by bright chrome bars and a black vent surround. There are body coloured door handles and of course, the tailgate badge, 'Autobiography Black'.

Inside, there's a choice of the standard colourway in Jet, or two colourways unique to the Autobiography Black – Jet and Ivory, or Jet and Pimento. The Autobiography Black logo is repeated throughout the interior where it is embossed on the rear seat armrest and appears on the four unique, Grand Black door veneers. Front door sill tread plates are illuminated with the words 'Range Rover' and there's a half wood Grand Black steering wheel. Supercharged models also offer gearknob veneers.

"At the top of the Range, the new Autobiography Black 40th anniversary limited edition offers customers the option of complete exclusivity with unique colourway combinations as well as striking interior and exterior design features. Only 700 will be made globally, emphasising the exclusivity of this limited edition," added Land Rover design director, Gerry McGovern.



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BLACKBOROUGH

A spacious period house finished to a high standard. Includes kitchen/dining room, sitting room, family room, 4 double bedrooms 3 bathrooms, O.F.C.H, garden (Gardener included), parking. Children considered, prefer no pets. Available beg August. Honiton Office 01404 42553

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WATERROW

A recently refurbished UHF 3 bedroom attached cottage in idyllic rural location. Kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, shower room, electric heating, garden, parking, children considered. Available immediately. Taunton Office 01823 447355

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EDGE OF BLACKDOWNS

A substantial 4/5 bedroom farmhouse set in approx 3 acres. Includes entrance hall, kitchen/breakfast room, family room, open plan dining/sitting room, 2 en-suites, shower room, bathroom, G.F.C.H. Garden, parking, double garage and 2 paddocks. Available immediately. Taunton office 01823 447355

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